

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 20, 2003

Convened: 7:04 PM

Present: Daniel DeWolfe, James McCaffrey, Donna O'Connor, Francis Russell, John Campbell, Gene Buddenhagen

Also present: Dan Morgado, Michael Hale, Phil Hammond, Thomas Fiore, Maurice DePalo, John Lebeaux, Ronald Alarie, Mel Gordon, Jack Perreault, Bob Tozeski, Ed Holland, June Tomaiolo, John Lukach, Christopher Kirk and Alice Canty.

Presiding: Daniel DeWolfe

Mr. DeWolfe opened the meeting and announced that it was technically a hearing for the 11 articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant to be held March 24, 2003. He stated that after the presentations were made, the Finance Committee members would have an opportunity to ask their questions and then those in the audience would be able to do so. He said Article 11 would be discussed first.

Article 11

June Tomaiolo came before the committee explaining that she represented the owners (Corcoran Management) of Shrewsbury Common who wished to donate land to the Town. She informed the committee that the owners were getting older and wished to settle their affairs. They liked Shrewsbury Commons as it was and did not wish to see their heirs develop the remaining three parcels on which a study showed 282 units could be developed and that was the reason for the donation.

After Ms. Tomaiolo's presentation, Mr. DeWolfe suggested that each article be presented with any votes following at the end. There were no objections from committee members.

Articles 1 - 6

Articles 1 – 6 pertain to zoning changes along Rtes 9 and 20. Jack Perreault, Ronald Alarie, Mel Gordon, Tom Fiore and Phil Hammond came before the committee to explain these zoning change articles. Mr. Gordon stated the changes were a continuation of the Master Plan economic development. He informed the members that a grant had been received to work with two consultants on these changes and that the Planning Board had voted to recommend all the Articles as they appear in the warrant with the exception of Article 4 which was modified at a February 27th public hearing. The Planning Board felt the modifications (three on Rte 20 and one on Rte 9) were reasonable. Mr. Perreault stated that a zoning committee had been formed and had five charges: 1. to standardize the zoning on Rtes 9 and 20 to reflect current use, 2. to explore the village overlay concept (Fairlawn and Edgemere), 3. to realign the use schedule, 4. to update the limited industrial zone and 5. to balance residential use. Mr. Hammond commented that these by-law changes reflect what would hope to be seen 10 to 15 years from now and was a good step towards addressing the needs in the Master Plan. Mr. Perreault briefly reviewed the changes in each article. Several audience members had their questions answered regarding Article 3. Mr. McCaffrey asked the dollar amount of the grant received and Mr. Alarie replied (\$30,000). Mr. Fiore made a general comment that the changes were very straight forward and reflected what the Town needs 20 – 30

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years from now. He stated that positive feedback from meetings with owners was very encouraging.

Mr. DeWolfe then moved on to Article 7.

Article 7

Mr. Morgado stated that Article 7 pertained to the layout of the connector road between Rte 20 and Pine St. in Grafton. Mr. Perreault said this had been in development for three years and had the least impact on the wetlands in the area and the landfill. The road is about one mile long, has a traffic signal at Cherry St North and Rte 20 which all traffic will use and Grafton has related articles for its May Town Meeting. Mr. Perreault continued that \$3.2 M in grants had been received. Mr. Buddenhagen asked if the grants covered landtakings. Mr. Morgado replied there will be no land takings because lots had been swapped at last year's Town Meeting. Mr. Gordon stated the road was designed to handle trailer trucks and that the Planning Board recommended this article. Mr. Morgado stated that snow plowing will be worked out with Grafton.

Article 8

Mr. Tozeski joined Mr. Morgado to discuss Article 8. Article 8 requests the transfer of \$50,400 from the Sewer Surplus Account. Mr. Morgado explained that the amount would round out the money needed for this two year program. Mr. Tozeski explained that the program would locate and identify sources of excessive infiltration and inflow into the sewerage system. He stated that reducing the infiltration and inflow would reduce operational costs. Mr. Campbell asked if a consultant was used and Mr. Tozeski replied that Fay Spofford was the consultant.

Article 9

Article 9 requests that \$30,000 be transferred from the Water System Improvements Account to repair the Home Farm Well 6-2. Mr. Tozeski explained that Home Farm Well 6-1 was refurbished last year and this well would help with the upcoming heavy water demand period this Spring and Summer.

Article 10

Mr. Morgado presented Article 10 which amends Article 18 – Water Use Restrictions of the Town's General By-laws. He stated that the changes are to make the by-law easier to understand. The major changes are in sections 3 and 4. Section 3 redefines "newly planted lawn areas" and Section 4 changes are mainly relative to the type of restrictions that may be placed. He stated that lawn watering is the main concern and hopes everyone uses water wisely. Mr. Fiore said that the by-law is not an all or nothing issue but that the Selectmen can impose parts as necessary. Mr. Tozeski stated all municipal fields are trying to be moved to private wells so they will not be on the municipal system.

Mr. DeWolfe stated that the hearing portion of the meeting was over. Mr. Buddenhagen asked for the recommendation of the Selectmen regarding Article 11, the donation of land. Mr. Fiore stated that the Selectmen unanimously recommended the acceptance of the land parcels.

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Mr. DeWolfe then asked for the members vote on whether or not to recommend the articles:

Article 1 – Mr. Russell motioned to recommend Article 1. Seconded by Mrs. O'Connor, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 2 – Mrs. O'Connor motioned to recommend Article 2. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 3 – Mr. Russell motioned to recommend Article 3. Seconded by Mrs. O'Connor, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 4 - Mrs. O'Connor motioned to recommend Article 4 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 5 - Mrs. O'Connor motioned to recommend Article 5. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 6 - Mr. Russell motioned to recommend Article 6. Seconded by Mrs. O'Connor, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 7 - Mrs. O'Connor motioned to recommend Article 7. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 8 – Mr. McCaffrey motioned to recommend Article 8. Seconded by Mrs. O'Connor, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 9 - Mrs. O'Connor motioned to recommend Article 9. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 10 - Mr. Russell motioned to recommend Article 10. Seconded by Mrs. O'Connor, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Article 11 – Mr. McCaffrey motioned to recommend Article 11. Seconded by Mrs. O'Connor, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Mr. Hale then spoke to the members regarding a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$9,541.50. There had been a blockage in a sewer line that caused damage to a private home. **Mr. Russell motioned to approve the transfer of \$9,541.50. Seconded by Mrs. O'Connor, the motion was so voted unanimously.**

Mr. Morgado then spoke on the FY 04 Budget status informing the members he would be sending out revised figures in the next few weeks. He was working on two scenarios; one based on the Governor's proposal (\$600,000 or so reduction) and the other on the House Ways & Means proposal (20% reductions of about \$2.4M). He also informed them that the school department was working on their end as well.

Mr. Buddenhagen asked about the current year. Mr. Morgado said he hoped that \$1M would be turned back. The Highway Department had a deficit of \$250,000 but some money should come from the federal government for the February 16 and 17th storm. The unemployment compensation account will need a transfer and the Health Insurance account has seen a 20% increase in the main plan offered. He stated the number of people employed (mostly on the education side) had increased and it costs about \$7,000 per employee for the insurance.

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Mr. Morgado then brought up two reserve fund transfers.

The first was for the Town Accountant Office in the amount of \$1,000. An error was made budgeting for the audit. **Mr. McCaffrey motioned to approve the transfer of \$1,000. Seconded by Mrs. O'Connor, the motion was so voted unanimously.**

The second reserve fund transfer was for the SL Plan 2 account in the amount of \$24,622.80 to cover the un-budgeted amount. **Mrs. O'Connor motioned to approve the transfer for \$24,622.80. Seconded by Mr. McCaffrey, the motion was so voted unanimously.**

Mr. Morgado briefly reviewed the 36 articles of the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. DeWolfe asked that they hold off on approving the minutes of the meeting held January 23, 2003 until a future meeting.

Mr. Hale then reviewed mail with the members. He stated the meeting calendar would be updated and sent to the members shortly.

Mr. DeWolfe expressed appreciation of the great commitment of Department Heads, Selectmen and other Town committees in the current fiscal times.

Mr. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. McCaffrey, the motion was so voted unanimously.

Adjourned: 9:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gail A. Sokolowski

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